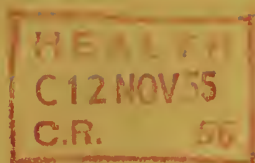


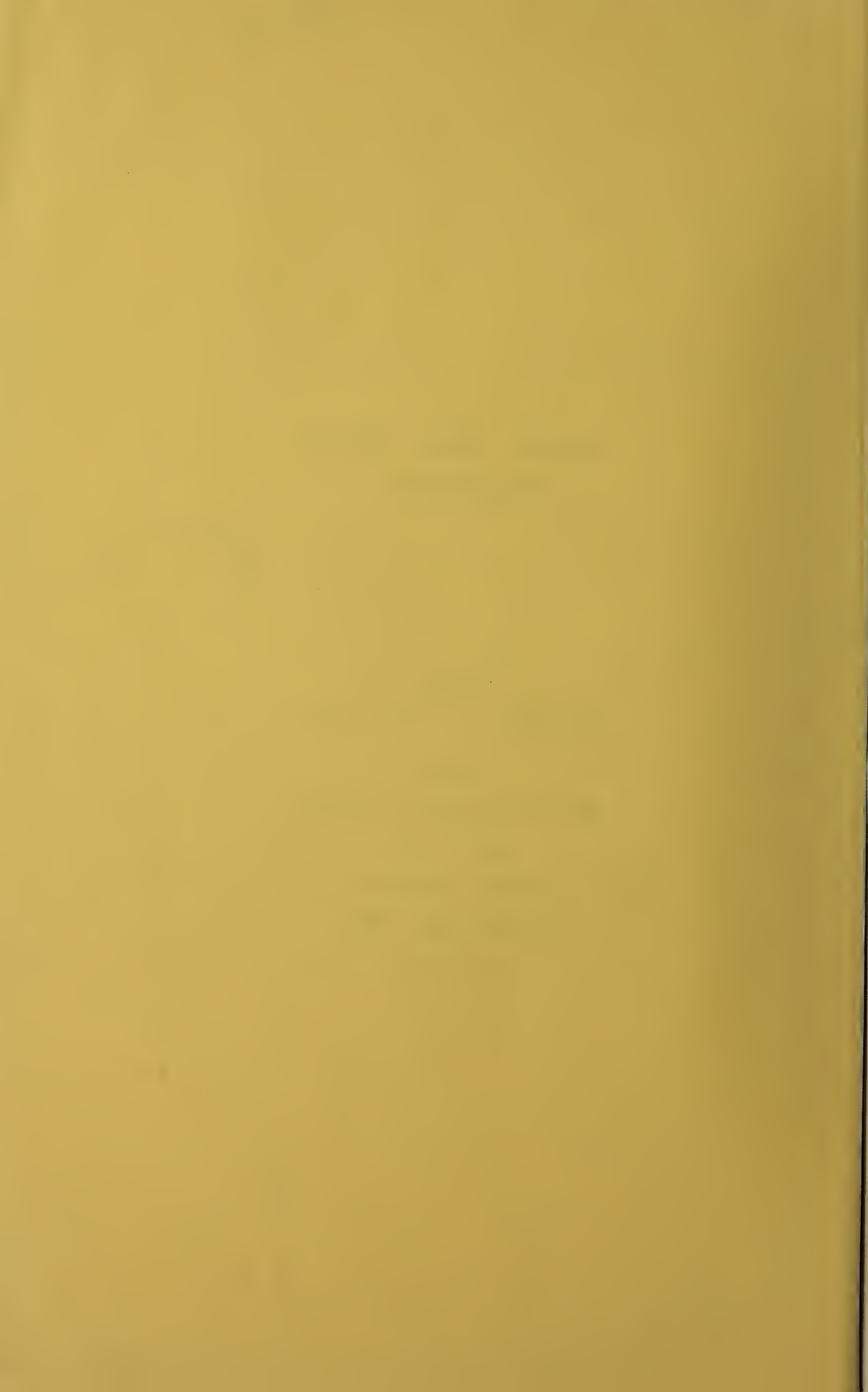
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KINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1954.



Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

E.R. CHILLINGFORD, M.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.,

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hope, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954 which has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and there were no major outbreaks of notifiable disease in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn. The sixty cases of whooping cough that occurred during the first six months of the year were generally mild in character.

The principal event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and to state the numbers of such houses that we expect to be able to deal with each year. As no full housing survey has yet been carried out in the district, the means by which this essential first step can be undertaken had not been solved by the end of the year. Provisional figures for our first five years programme to provide accommodation for people whose worn-out houses we undertake to demolish within that period, must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government before the 31st August, 1955.

It was with pleasure that we learned of the Government's decision to terminate meat rationing in July 1954. This decision involved the abandonment of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food (for our area, at the Leominster Abattoir) and the re-introduction of the licensing of existing private slaughter-houses. In view of the Government's declared policy of restoring centralised slaughtering some time in the future and to authorise the provision of major abattoir facilities in comparatively few centres throughout the country cognisance had to be taken of this by the Council when re-licensing existing private slaughter-houses, because costly improvements at them might lead to claims for compensation against the Council from the owners when the official policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering was effected.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging once again our indebtedness to the Chairman and Members for the encouragement that has been given to us throughout the year.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,472
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,950
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,517
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£16,196
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£66. 1. 7d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	76	41	35
(Illegitimate)	..	..	5	2	3
Total			81	43	38
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	3	-	3
DEATHS	..	..	62	29	33
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	..	..	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	..	..	Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	16.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	15.2
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	35.7
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	24.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	12.5
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	..	25.5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLIES

The Rural District is still dependent on wells, springs and estate supplies, both private and public, throughout its area. The public supplies and many of the private supplies have received careful attention throughout the year both from the question of quality and of sufficiency. In one case only did a serious shortage occur, namely Huntington, where the supply broke down completely and emergency measures were put into force by the setting up of a water point. Subsequently the supply was brought back into use by the laying of a new and larger pipe line.

The end of the year saw a supplementary scheme in respect of the parishes of Pembridge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Stapleton, Byton and Kinsham, presented to the Ministry for consideration and it is hoped that a decision will be forthcoming in the immediate future.

Fifty-one samples for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination were taken during 1954. Of these, twenty-seven were satisfactory, and twenty-four unsatisfactory. Remedial measures to improve supplies were put in hand where necessary.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The question of sewage disposal assumes greater importance year by year, and 1954 was no exception. Of the two parishes that are sewered, land irrigation is the mode of disposal. Owing to increased quantities of sewage now being treated due to the addition of new houses to the sewers, and by conversion of earth closets to the water carriage system, the present methods of treatment are largely inefficient as the land available for treatment is limited, and necessitates more and more attention to prevent nuisances arising.

With the completion of the Winforton Housing Estate during the year, one more sewage disposal plant was brought into use, bringing the total of Council operated works to six. In addition there are seven pairs of Council houses each with its own septic tank disposal system.

In the parish of Lyonshall it is becoming extremely difficult to keep the slurry ditch clear and free from offensive odour, and the question of sewerage the parish is of the utmost importance.

It is gratifying to note that during the year increasing use was being made of Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts which include assistance towards the cost of installing septic tank systems by owners of private dwellings. This has improved the drainage arrangements of individual properties and reduced the possibilities of nuisances accordingly.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

One complaint was received during the year of alleged pollution of a stream forming part of the boundary of one of the Council's sewage disposal works, and steps were subsequently taken to prevent seepage along the banks.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The work of refuse collection and disposal continued satisfactorily throughout the year. The service is one that is appreciated by the ratepayers generally, as evidenced by the amounts which are collected month by month. Four refuse tips are in use and receive routine treatment to prevent rodent and fly infestation,

RODENT CONTROL

Systematic survey and treatment, parish by parish, continued during 1954, and rat infestation throughout the district has been kept to a minimum. In addition to private and business property, the Council's sewers and disposal works also receive routine attention.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	12	17	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	4	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	12	-	-
TOTAL	21	33	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Want of cleanliness - 3 and these were remedied

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Visits made in connection with :-

Council House Repairs	..	..	..	198
Housing Acts	..	..	..	45
Nuisances and Complaints	..	..	..	37
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	125
New Housing Sites	..	..	..	36
Water Supplies (general)	..	..	..	162
Water Samples taken	..	..	..	51
Milk and Dairies Regulations	..	..	..	22
Milk Samples taken	..	..	..	16
Food Premises	..	..	..	191
Disinfection following infectious disease				6
Disinfection of verminous premises	..	..	..	7
Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	84
Sewerage	..	..	..	86
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	49
Hergest Camp	..	..	..	121
Total	..	..	..	<u>1236</u>

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal .. 11 : Statutory .. Nil : Complied with 9

HOUSING

1954 saw the completion of the remaining six houses at Winforton, leaving only the proposed four houses to be built at Staunton-on-Arrow to complete the Post-War Housing Programme for the District. With the passing of the Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954., emphasis was laid upon slum clearance, and the end of the year saw the necessary measures towards this end being implemented. A great deal of work has however still to be done before proposals are complete, but it is anticipated that these will be ready within the ensuing year.

Four houses were completed by private enterprise, and a further seven were under construction at the end of the year.

Seven applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were approved by the Council, and the works of improvement on four properties were completed by the end of 1954.

Complaints in respect of unsatisfactory housing accommodation were dealt with as they arose.

The temporary housing accommodation at Hergest Camp occasioned many difficulties during the year in connection with keeping the hutments weatherproof and in a reasonable state of repair. However, several important meetings took place between the Council of the Urban and Rural Districts resulting in proposals for permanent housing being agreed upon. These are now before the Ministry for consideration.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

With the end of meat rationing half way through the year private slaughtering was once more permitted, subject to compliance with certain conditions. Two applications for slaughtering were received and were subsequently granted. This now entails routine visits on all occasions of slaughtering, and one hundred and fifty-two such visits were made to the end of the year, the number of animals inspected being as under :-

Cattle	..	75	Sheep	..	329
Pigs	..	88	Calves	..	4

The quantity of meat rejected as unfit for human consumption was relatively slight, consisting of one carcass of sheep, and one calf, six pigs' heads, and 52 lbs. of offal. This is most satisfactory and emphasises the high quality of the meat passing through the butchers' shops.

Thirty-nine visits were made to other food premises, where conditions generally were satisfactory, due regard being made to the age of the buildings concerned and the absence of main drainage and piped water supplies.

Food premises are summarised as under :-

General Stores	..	10	Butchers Shops	..	2
Bakeries	..	3	Public Houses	..	11
Cafés	..	2			

Number of premises registered under Section 14
of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 3

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	3	12	14	25	2	-	4	-	60
Pneumonia	-	-	-		1	-	1	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of twenty-four males and twenty-one females who normally reside within the district.

During the year four new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; and one case returned to the district having left the district in a previous year.

During the same period two persons suffering from Tuberculosis left the district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation,

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year :-

Purpose of Injection.	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination.									Reinforcing Injections.
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	30	37	3	1	3	10	-	-	84	109
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	19	26	8	6	5	-	-	-	64	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	56	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	1

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease				Males	Females	TOTAL
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			-	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.	...	-	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		..	2	-	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms			1	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system		..	2	9	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	2	5	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease		...	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	.	...	7	6	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system			-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		...	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		..	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			3	2	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	-	2
34.	All other accidents	1	-	1
35.	Suicide	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war		...	-	-	-

All causes

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